

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S:SESTEINER:WES

APPROVED BY:S/S:SESTEINER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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S E C R E T STATE 242737 TOSEC 280066

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOLLOWING REPEAT GABORONE 1830 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 29 SEP 76.

QTE:S E C R E T GABORONE 1830

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, XA

SUBJECT: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN DISCUSSIONS IN GABORONE

1. BRITISH HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOGWE OF BOTSWANA AND CHONA OF ZAMBIA. THEY BELIEVE THERE ESSENTIAL AGREEMENT ABOUT HOLDING OF CONFERENCE TO ESTABLISH INTERIM GOVERNMENT. MAJOR POINT IN DISCUSSION AT LEAST REMAINS THE COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL OF STATE, ALTHOUGH DUFF HAS BEEN TRYING TO PERSUADE AFRICANS THAT THIS IS A MATTER WHICH SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE.

2. TALKS WITH NKOMO WERE ENCOURAGING. HE IS FAIRLY RELAXED ALTHOUGH HE RAISES IN LESS ACUTE WAY MANY OF SAME ISSUES THAT OTHER AFRICANS HAVE RAISED. NKOMO TOLD BRITISH THAT MOGABE HAS RETURNED TO MPAPUTO BECAUSE HE IS UNSURE OF HIS OWN POLITICAL BASE AND MUST CHECK WITH THE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF ZIPA. NKOMOTOLD BRITI

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THAT HE WOULD NOT WANT ANY OF THESE YOUNG MILITARY LEADERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD INVITE MUZOREWA TO PARTICIPATE. IN THE MEANTIME, MUZOREWA, WHO IS ALSO IN GABORONE, IS BEGINNING TO TALK IN MUCH MORE MODERATE TERMS THAT HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS WHEN HE SOUNDED ADAMENATLY OPPOSED TO ANYTHING THAT DEVELOPED OUT OF YOUR INITIATIVE.

3. BRITISH HAVE RELIABLE INFORMATION THROUGH HAWKINS IN PRETORIA VIA GAYLORD IN SALISBURY THAT SMITH WILL AGREE TO A CONFERENCE CHARIED BY UK. PROBLEM OF SITE HAS NOT YET BEEN SOLVED. DUFF'S GUESS IS THAT IT WILL END UP PROBABLY IN GENEVA. EVIDENTLY AFRICANS HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT LIVINGSTONE BECAUSE OF ITS PROXIMITY TO RHODESIA WHICH WOULD PERMIT RHODESIAN DELEGATION TO GO HOME EVERY NIGHT. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A PSYCHOLOGICAL POINT WHICH, AS IS OFTEN THE CASE IN AFRICA, TURNS OUT TO HAVE GREATER IMPORTANTCE THAN IT SHOULD.

4. BRITISH MAJOR CONCERN STILL IS WHETHER SMITH CAN BE BROUGHT ALONG UNDER THE VAGUE FRAMEWORDK WHICH WILL CHARACTERIZE THE CALLING OF A CONFERENCE. THIS IS ALSO A QUESTION IN MY MIND. I UNDERSTAND ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT YET SEEN A TEXT OR A REPORT, THAT NYERERE GAVE AN UNHELPFUL PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY IN DAR ES SALAAM WHICH MAY MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR SMITH TO ACCEPT A CONFERENCE WHICH DOES NOT MEET IN SOME WAY THE FIVE POINTS.

5. I SPOKE TO MOBUTU TONIGHT AND HE WILL BE MEETING WITH KAUNDA AND NKOMO TOMORROW IN AN EFFORT TO PERSUADE THEM TO BE AS REASONABLE AS POSSIBLE IN THIS PRE-CONFERENCE PHASE. HE FULLY AGREES THERE SHOULD BE NO NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THE CONFERNCE BUT THEY SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE CONFERENCE ITSELF AND IS HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS OF MACHEL AND ZIPA LEADERS. TENTATIVELY PLANS AT THIS POINT ARE THAT THERE WILL BE ANOTHER UK-US MEETING WITH KAUNDA AND KHAMA FRIDAY MORNING. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR FURTHER THOUGHTS IN ANTICIPATION OF THAT MEETING.

ALBERTI
UNQTE: ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERIM GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 09/29/76, PLANNING MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE242737
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S:SESTEINER:WES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N760007-0445
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976092/aaaaaaxh.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN DISCUSSIONS IN GABORONE
TAGS: PFOR, RH, XA
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006